

STAFF NEWS



Communicating with Professionals in Corrections and Parole

Out-of-State Transport of Inmates Begins



CDCR inmates load onto a plane in Bakersfield that will transport them to West Tennessee Detention Facility near Nashville. More inmates will be transported to other states soon.

CDCR Signs Contracts to House Inmates Out-of-State; Inmates Begin Moving in Early November

In response to Governor Schwarzenegger's state of emergency proclamation to immediately ease severe overcrowding in California prisons, the CDCR announced in late October it had signed two separate contracts to temporarily provide 2,260 beds for inmates outside of California.

On Nov. 3, the first group of 80 volunteer inmates left Meadows Field in Bakersfield and flew to the West Tennessee Detention Facility near Nashville.

Prior to the transfers, a variety of prisoner rights groups, and the California Correctional Peace

Officer's Association had joined forces in an effort to stop the transfers, arguing in court that reducing the prison population would take jobs away from state workers.

CDCR Secretary James E. Tilton has maintained that staff safety is driving efforts by managers to keep inmate populations at safe levels.

"This is a major step toward reducing the historic levels of overcrowding that is causing major safety issues for prison staff, inmates and the public," Tilton said. "The Governor clearly rec-

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CIW Teams with Faith-Based Organization to Prepare Female Offenders for Parole In Pilot Program

By LT. LARRY AARON

AA/PIO

California Institution for Women

On Nov. 6, the California Institution for Women (CIW), and the Prison Industry Authority (PIA), in cooperation with a nationally recognized faith-based prisoner reentry program, held an open house for a pilot program designed to prepare female offenders for reentry into society, and reunification with their families and children.

This reentry curriculum is being coordinated by a national organization, *Alpha USA Divisions of Prisons & Re-Entry*, which



An inmate gives testimony to other inmates.

has conducted similar programs in two other states. The results of similar programs in other states have been encouraging and indicate a decrease in recidivism or return-to-prison rate for inmates. More than 200 faith-based volunteers from across the United States joined in a celebration and blessing of this open house.

▣ Pilot Page 4

CDCR Plays “Ball” in Recruitment Drive

More than five million Californians tune into Sunday NFL games on their radio. And this season those fans will hear an important, new message: “Consider a career in law enforcement as a peace officer with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.”

The ads all end with the same tag line: “Crime doesn’t pay, but a career with us does.”

More than 50 radio stations in California will run the ads during 49ers, Raiders and Chargers games.

“Several other law enforcement agencies have used radio to reach a

wider audience, and we wanted to tap into that market as well,” said Suzanne Chan, Peace Officer Recruitment Chief.

The radio campaign started in August and September, at the end of the Major League Baseball Season, with limited advertising running on the Giants, A’s, Angels and Dodgers radio networks.

Soon CDCR will add to its run schedule stations carrying the NBA’s Kings and Lakers as well.

CDCR is tasked with hiring several thousand peace officers in the next two years; that is close to half

as many officers as every police and sheriff department in California.

In addition to CDCR’s highly visible radio campaign, the Department continues to use primary career channels, such as employment ads and career web sites, as well as attend 30 or more career fairs a month.

If you know of a great career fair, county fair or public event CDCR should attend, contact your institution’s recruitment team.

For more information, please contact your institution’s recruitment coordinator or call the Peace Officer Recruitment Unit at (916) 227-7350.

CCWF Inmates Participate in Soup Bowls for Super Kids Program

Central California Women’s Facility (CCWF) recently participated in the 6th Annual ‘Soup Bowls for Super Kids’ program held at Martin Luther King Middle School in Madera.

The event was a collective effort of the Community Action Partnership of Madera County-Victim Services Center, the Central California Women’s Facility’s (CCWF), Arts-in-Corrections and the local community in an effort to raise funds for child abuse awareness programs.

The pottery bowls donated by the inmates are on display for attendees to select the bowl of their choice.

Inmates participating in the Arts-in-Corrections program at CCWF made approximately 250 pottery bowls, which were donated to the Victim Services Center. The Victim Services Center sold tickets for \$20 to attend the event and for the price of the ticket attendees were allowed

to select the bowl of their choice, which they later used to be served a variety of soups that were donated by various community restaurants and organizations. Salad, bread, desert and beverages were also provided.

Artist’s facilitator Kate Moldauer displays the Certification of Appreciation that was presented to her by the Victim Services Center for her hard work and dedication.

Victim Services Center staff and volunteers did a marvelous job organizing this year’s event and the program was once again a huge success. All proceeds from the event were donated to the Victim Services Center. Their efforts have been instrumental in the success of the “Soup Bowls for Super Kids” program.

Kern Valley Inmates Assist in Fundraising



Kern Valley State Prison inmates raised \$1,136 and donated it to the Alliance Against Family Violence for Battered Women and Children that services the City of Delano.

Submissions

Staff News publicize staff activities, innovative programs, and transmits important information to the rank-and-file. To this end, we need stories and pictures to be submitted for publication. Please send your submissions to:

CDCRnews@cdcr.ca.gov

CDCR Parole Agents, Special Services Unit, Participate in Countywide Gang/Drugs Crackdown

The Sacramento Police Department and the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department, in partnership with federal, state, county and local law enforcement agencies saturated the Sacramento area and arrested 84 gang members for various violations during a two-day operation dubbed, "Sacramento Neighborhoods Against Gangs."

Agents from the CDCR Adult Parole and Community Services Division, Office of Investigation, Special Service Unit, and the CDCR transportation unit participated in this event.

The goal of the operation was to send a clear message that gang violence will not be tolerated. Participating public safety organizations descended upon neighborhoods across the Sacramento region targeting known gang members on parole or probation. The operation began on



Sacramento County Sheriff John McGinness and CDCR Parole Chief Tom Hoffman answer media questions.

Oct. 24, and ended on Oct. 25. The large-scale operation consisted of 420 law enforcement officers from 19 different agencies and resulted in the recovery of 25 firearms, 8 edged weapons, cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamine, and opium with a street value of approximately \$25,000.

The dedication and commitment

to the protection of our communities is exemplified by the participation of the following agencies: the Sacramento Police Department, Sacramento County Sheriff's Department, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Regional Terrorism Threat Assessment Center, Central California Intelligence Center, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, United States Attorney's Office, California Department of Justice, California Highway Patrol, California Department of Corrections and Re-

habilitation, Sacramento Regional Office of Homeland Security, Sacramento County District Attorney's Office, Sacramento County Probation Department, Citrus Heights Police Department, Elk Grove Police Department, Folsom Police Department, Galt Police Department, and the Rancho Cordova Police Department.

CDCR Investigators Catch California Prison Escapee after 35 years

A 35-year odyssey came to an end when a man who escaped from a California corrections conservation camp in 1971 was returned to custody after a special agent with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) reopened the case earlier this year.

"This case clearly demonstrates that CDCR never stops looking for offenders who have escaped from custody or parole supervision," said Richard Rimmer, Assistant Secretary of the CDCR Office of Correctional Safety. "Our agents and staff are very experienced, talented and relentless investigators."

Earlier this year, Judy Foster, a special agent with CDCR's Office of Correctional Safety-Special Service Unit reopened the case of Michael Florentino, who had escaped from a state correctional conservation camp on Aug. 22, 1971. Within months, the agent tracked Florentino, now 60, living in Vancouver, British Columbia, under the alias Michael Capuano.

In August, the Special Service Unit contacted the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) for assistance. The RCMP confirmed Florentino's identity and conducted surveillance to confirm his where-

abouts. The Federal Bureau of Investigations submitted an Unlawful Flight to Avoid Custody warrant to authorities in Canada and Florentino was arrested in Vancouver on Sept. 15, 2006, by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents for being a U.S. citizen in Canada illegally.

Florentino, convicted in Contra Costa County in 1969, was about two-and-a-half years into his six-month to 10-year sentence for assault with a deadly weapon when he and inmate Bobby Jehu Stroup walked away from the Growlersburg Conservation Camp in El Dorado County 35

(Please see Escape, Page 7)

PILOT..(From page one)

Nearly 130 CIW female offenders are enrolled in this program.

"This department re-organized to begin preparing inmates for their eventual release back into the community the day they arrive to serve their prison time," said CIW Warden Dawn Davison. "I believe these type of partnerships will give inmates, such as the women at CIW, the best chance at success once they leave prison and return home. This program also has improved the security and safety within the prison, allowing other programming inmates the ability to be successful."

The pilot program allows for CIW inmates to voluntarily participate in a curriculum of study based on Biblical principles prior to release and continue to be assisted in their transition back into the community after release. The state is not reimbursing the collaborators for curriculum delivery or post-release services.

CDCR has a long history of working with organizations of all denominations who serve as volunteers. CDCR welcomes organizations of all denominations who are interested in providing programs that assist inmates and parolees.

The PIA, the state organization

that operates factories in California prisons and a co-sponsor of the program, has created additional jobs in its fabric enterprise at the institution to support this pilot program.

"The Prison Industry Authority is pleased to partner with the Alpha project in developing a new rehabilitation program at the California Insti-



Alpha Director Jack Cowley speaks to inmates.



Alpha members and volunteers gather in a circle to bless the housing unit at CIW.

tution for Women," said PIA General Manager Matt Powers. "The skills that these inmates learn while working in PIA and the life skills that are taught in the Alpha Project can greatly assist inmates in successfully transitioning back into society."

Administrators at other CDCR institutions are studying the CIW pilot in an effort to determine whether this program will work in their facility. Plans are already in place to initiate a second pilot at Folsom State Prison in 2007.

In nearly every community surrounding existing adult prisons and juvenile facilities, hundreds of faith-based volunteers serve as a critical community partner with inmates – often serving as the only visitor an inmate might have during their incarceration. The Alpha program is designed to channel those resources in a coordinated effort to deliver a variety of skills to inmates so they can best succeed once they return home.

"I was a prison warden for more than 20 years in Oklahoma," said Alpha National Director Jack Cowley. "I have been witness to a failed correctional system, both in California and on a national level. I am excited about the possibilities in this state for a meaningful transition for the inmates. This follows Governor Schwarzenegger's plan for reducing recidivism. This program is a first, and I believe it will serve as a significant step toward making those reductions in recidivism occur."

Female inmates with a minimum of nine months to a year of time before their parole date can be considered. Inmates can stay as long as a year. The program encompasses a single living unit in a general population area.

Inmates are housed within the same living unit of the facility to enhance an environment within the facility, which is supportive to their life-changing experiences. The curriculum is broken up into four quarters, like an educational curriculum. Thirty to forty inmates attend each part of the curriculum as they move through the four quarters. The classes are taught in the evenings, while inmates are at jobs during the day.

Division of Juvenile Justice *Green Sheet*

Merit Corporation Provides Opportunity for DJJ wards Through Free Venture Partnership

Merit Corporation, a non-profit organization from Stockton, successfully operates a "surplus electronics management program" out of the N.A. Chaderjian Youth Facility.

Working through the CDCR's Free Venture Program, the company employs young adult offenders to process surplus electronics for resale or recycling. Surplus materials are received from such companies as Lockheed Martin, SanDisk, Abbott Laboratories, Agilent Technologies and Northrop Grumman. Materials include electronic components, as well as manufacturing, test and office equipment.

The surplus material processed for resale meets requirements set forth by

dance with strict standards and material processed for recycling and disposal meets California's eWaste standards.

Merit's operation is self-sustaining and receives no public or private grants of any kind. Nearly 90 percent of Merit's revenues go directly toward the employment and training of the N.A. Chaderjian wards. Each ward pays state and federal taxes, and thirty-five percent of their net pay is used to pay room and board, fines and victim restitution. Merit's program

(Please see Merit, Page 7)



N.A. Chaderjian Wards make adjustments to equipment at the Merit job site.

Merit's client companies. Data from these systems is eradicated in accor-

Milton Braswell Retires From DJJ

By **LESLIE KECK**

Executive Secretary, Division of Parole Services

Recently, a retirement celebration was held in Sacramento to honor Milton Braswell, in conjunction with the three-day, second quarterly Statewide Supervisors Training for Supervising Parole Agents, Assistant Supervising Parole Agents and Office Services Supervisor I's.

Braswell's longtime friend Reggie Watkins, Supervising Parole Agent, San Jose Juvenile Parole, served as the master of ceremonies for the retirement event. Braswell was honored for his leadership, integrity and vision, which tied into the themes for the statewide training: leadership, integrity and commitment.

More than 100 statewide staff attended Braswell's retirement celebration. Braswell's career spanned 28 years, beginning in 1978 as a Youth Counselor at Heman G. Stark Youth Training School.

His career spanned three branches in leadership roles within the former

California Youth Authority including the Parole Services and Community Corrections Branch, Office of Prevention and Victims Services, and the Institutions and Camps Branch. Before his retirement, Braswell was the Northern Regional Administrator (A) for



Milton Braswell (r) poses with Zakiya Khalfani, DJJ Parole Administrator.

(Please see Milton, Page 7)

Staff News

The Electronic Edition

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So Cal Juvenile Officers Association Conducts Annual Meeting at Stark Facility

By **ELVERTA MOCK**

Program Administrator,
Heman G. Stark Youth Correctional Facility

The Heman G. Stark Youth Correctional Facility hosted the Southern California Juvenile Officers Association's annual meeting on Oct. 12, with more than 150 members in attendance.

Bill Baxter, Los Angeles Police Department (retired) and President of the association, led the delegation, which included police and probation officers, commissioners, public defenders, sentencing specialists, public school staff and staff from various community based organizations from counties ranging from Ventura to San Bernardino.

The meeting opened with a gracious welcome from Heman Stark Superintendent Chris Smith. Elizabeth Siggins, Chief, Juvenile Jus-

tice Policy Division, provided an overview of the Department's remedial plans. Following the presentation, the members toured the facility. It was an opportunity for the institution to showcase its educational section, treatment programs and other sup-

ported their programs including a delicious luncheon prepared by the Culinary Arts class. Chaplain Earl Smith, founder of the Incarcerated Men Putting Away Childish Things (IMPACT) Program and his staff gave a sampling of their work with wards.

The association members heard from a panel of five wards and discharged parolees who presented their stories on "the road to rehabilitation". Most impressive was the ward who is a firefighter with the California Department of Forestry. This event proved to be a great opportunity to highlight the dedicated staff of the Heman G. Stark Youth Correctional Facility and our field parole offices, the department's rehabilitative mission and to network with valuable community resources.



Superintendent Smith addresses the group.

portive services. The wards proudly

Family Reunification Event held at Ventura YCF

The Ventura County Facility Family Council hosted a Family Reunification Celebration on Sept. 23 that drew more than 400 guests.

The main event was a softball game on the front field with participants consisting of staff, wards and family members.

Everyone returned to the new visiting hall for games, pie eating contests, cotton candy, snow cones, face painting and bingo. Other activities included a dunk tank and miniature golf. Everyone in attendance seemed to enjoy themselves. There were several parents who submitted applications to join the Family Council.

Delano High School Criminal Justice Academy Takes Field Trip to North Kern State Prison

By **BARRY BOLTON**

AA/Public Information Officer,
North Kern State Prison

North Kern State Prison hosted a field trip for 35 Delano High School Criminal Justice Academy students on Sept. 19. The students are enrolled in a year-long program to help them prepare for a career in law enforcement.

The three-hour visit included a bus tour and a presentation by Associate Warden Jonathan Cobbs. It also included a variety of presentations including one from the consulting and classification staff.

The visitors appeared especially interested in the presentations from Assistant Gang Investigator, Gregory

Hopkins and Investigative Services Unit Officer Kevin Ross. The morning wrapped up with a Crisis Response Team presentation and a question and answer session.

The students enjoyed the presentations and a number said they were looking forward to careers in corrections.

Officer Kevin Ross showed Delano High School Criminal Justice Academy students weapons and other contraband recovered from the prison.

Delano High School Criminal Justice Academy students listened to presentations about prison investigations from NKSP employees.

MERIT..*(From page five)*

serves the state, while costing the state absolutely nothing.

Merit contracts its pick-up and transportation services with bonded trucking and rigging companies. The company does not recycle or dispose of any electronics at the N.A. Chaderjian facility. All such services are provided by licensed companies such as Sims Metals in Stockton and Electronic Recyclers in Fresno.

The company can process approximately 40,000 pounds or forty-eight pallets of electronics a week at

N. A. Chaderjian. This volume translates into full employment for twelve wards. The workload also can be designed to employ six wards full-time and twelve wards splitting shifts to accommodate treatment programs. Working on a volume of 40,000 pounds per week, these wards can reimburse the state approximately \$900 per week for room & board, fines and victim restitution.

Vocation and education programs at N. A. Chaderjian have the first opportunity to receive the processed

materials. And, staff at the institution has first rights to purchase—at a very nominal amount—any of the computer equipment refurbished in the program. And, all wards working for Merit are given a free computer system upon their release from the facility.

According to Merit, the program can be expanded to other youth facilities, and can support a manager and five full-time employees with as little as 80,000 pounds of recyclable electronics per month.

Ventura Girls Donate Hair in “Locks of Love”

By **KARETTE FUSSELL**

Supervising Casework Specialist,
Ventura Youth Correctional Facility

Nine female wards, at the Ventura Youth Correctional Facility, have donated at least ten inches of hair each to the local Locks of Love organization. Locks of Love provides hairpieces for children suffering from long-term medical hair loss.

Most of the children who receive hair from Locks of Love have lost their hair because of an incurable medical condition called Alopecia Areata, which has no known cure. The donation helps them restore their self-esteem and helps them face their

peers and the world in general. Many of the wards participating in this event have children and want to give back to the community by helping children in need.

“The concept of restorative justice is critical to getting these wards ready for their return to society,” said Superintendent Dave Finley. “A project such as Locks of Love serves as an immediate reinforcement of the power of restorative justice, by allowing them to contribute back to society.”

MILTON..*(From page five)*

the Division of Juvenile Parole Operations.

The Resolution given to him by Senator Dave Cox, states “Braswell has been much more than a colleague to those with whom he has worked. He has been a source of inspiration and guidance, a calming force during periods of extraordinary time deadline pressures, and a solid foundation during periods of change.”

His wise counsel will be missed. Good luck, Milton!

ESCAPE..*(From page four)*

years ago. Stroup was apprehended, but Florentino, who was 25 years old at the time, eluded authorities for more than three decades.

Following his arrest, Florentino was given a deportation order to return to the United States from federal immigration officials. He voluntarily surrendered to CDCR Special Service Unit agents and federal immigration agents. He was taken into CDCR custody and transported to San Quentin State Prison’s Reception Center.

The Board of Parole Hearings will be notified and will schedule a hearing to determine how much time Florentino needs to serve and what action to take for his 1971 escape.

The Special Service Unit was established in 1964. Originally formed to enhance liaison activities between corrections and the law enforcement community, the unit provides state level investigative services to law enforcement when inmates or parolees are suspected, provides investigative services for CDCR institutions,

functions as the department’s gang intelligence operation, apprehends escapees and dangerous parolees-at-large, and coordinates the California Gang Task Force, the longest running law enforcement task force in California history. In the past three years, the Special Service Unit has apprehended 61 escapees.

Of all offenders that escaped from a state prison, conservation camp or community based program between 1975 and 2005, 99 percent have been apprehended.

IMPACT..(From page five)

ognizes the dangers posed by this crisis and has ordered the Department to respond aggressively and appropriately. These contracts will allow California to house inmates out-of-state in a safe and cost-effective manner while creating relief inside our prisons.”

The two contracts signed by CDCR are with The GEO Group Inc. of Florida and the Correctional Corporation of America (CCA), headquartered in Nashville, Tennessee. Combined, the contracts

will provide beds for up to 2,260 California inmates in four states.

Contracts with both companies are for three years beginning November 2006, with mutual options for two-year extensions. Each inmate transferred will be housed in a secure, private correctional facility at a cost of \$63 per day (excluding transportation cost).

The GEO Group Inc. will house up to 1,260 medium-custody level inmates at the New Castle Correctional Facility in New Castle, Indiana. The total cost of The GEO Group Inc. contract is expected to be approximately \$28.7 million per year.

The CCA will house up to 1,000 medium-custody level inmates in double cells at four of their facilities, including 440 inmates at Florence Detention Center near Phoenix, Arizona; 240 inmates at the North Fork Correctional Facility and 240 inmates at the Diamondback facility, both in

Oklahoma; and 80 inmates at the West Tennessee Detention Facility in Mason, Tennessee. The total annual cost of the CCA contract is approxi-



This CCA facility in West Tennessee provides community services.

mately \$22.9 million.

Although both The GEO Group Inc. and CCA operate private institutions, they are required by contract to operate them consistent with all CDCR procedures and California law.

The transfer of the 2,260 inmates is expected to be completed by March 2007. CDCR will continue to seek additional contracts to house up to a total of 5,000 inmates.

Prior to the transfer, CDCR officials inspected the out-of-state facilities to ensure that they are consistent with California standards for safety and security, as well as whether the proper medical care and rehabilitative programs will be provided to inmates.

All facilities are accredited by the American Correctional Association.

With more than 172,000 inmates, overcrowding in California prisons is so severe that CDCR has been forced to house more than 17,000 inmates in areas not designed for living space,

including gymnasiums and dayrooms. Nearly 1,500 of those inmates are living in triple bunks. Without immediate action, CDCR inmate population

projections show that all prison space will be completely exhausted by August 2007. By moving these 2,260 inmates now, that date is expected to be pushed back to June 2008.

Following numerous legislative attempts to address this issue, the Governor proclaimed a state of emergency on Oct. 4, 2006, clearing the way for CDCR to begin contracting with public and/or private

correctional facilities to temporarily house California inmates.

This summer, the Governor called a special session of the Legislature to address the issue; however, a package of proposals to relieve overcrowding failed to win support. In January, the Governor introduced proposals for new prison and local jail facilities as part of his Strategic Growth Plan but those were not included in the bond package passed by the Legislature.

The Governor also proposed moving non-violent female inmates into community correctional facilities as part of his proposed Fiscal Year 2006-07 Budget, but that proposal also failed passage.

The Governor will reintroduce plans to build new prison and jail facilities, reentry facilities, and community correctional facilities when the Legislature reconvenes.